



CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

Journal homepage: <https://cajssh.centralasianstudies.org>



Comments on the Work Justin Marozzi "Tamerlane, Conqueror of the World"

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Abstract:

The author of the article gives a brief analysis, comments and opinions on the work of Justin Marozzi "Tamerlane. Conqueror of the World" devoted to the personality of Amir Timur.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 09-Dec-22

Received in revised form 15-Dec-22

Accepted 07-Jan-23

Available online 15-Feb-2023

Key word: Timur the Great, Justin Marozzi, interpretation, personality, history.

Despite the fact that a number of works have been written about Amir Timur in the world literature, dozens of books dedicated to his personality, life and military activities are being published in the 20th - 21st centuries. One such book is the work of the English writer Justin Marozzi "Tamerlane. Conqueror of the World".

Justin Marozzi is an English journalist, historian and travel writer. Four books of Marozzi have been published. Recognized as a historical novel, this work by Justin Marozzi begins with the following review: "Tamerlan is the Tatar successor of Genghis Khan, he ranks among the greatest conquerors of

* Marozzi Justin. Tamerlane. Conqueror of the World. – Sankt-Petersburg: KAPO, 2007.

the world, like Alexander the Great." His armies were barbaric and terrorized all over Asia, Africa and Europe.

Like a fiery storm, these armies invaded the whole of Asia, razed the cities to the ground, tortured the captives, and inflicted bloodshed on the enemies. Anyone who dared to disobey Tamerlane was undoubtedly beheaded, and as a result, towers built from these bloody heads served as symbols of his power throughout Central Asia. Until the end of his life, Tamerlane, while enforcing his strict rules, also raised the level of culture in regions from Syria to India and from Siberia to the Mediterranean[†].

To tell about this ruthless, wise and powerful warrior, Justin Marozzi travels to the homeland of the emperor of Samarkand (now Uzbekistan), who made a name for himself with this evil. This work was translated by Alexander Bolnykh[‡] in 2009 as "Temur is the blessing of the world". This version also has a publisher's preface, which reads: Tamerlan – Iron, Temur, as his contemporaries called him. The last in the series of great world conquerors. A legendary medieval warlord was born with congealed blood in the palm of his hand, it is said (according to legend). Owner of a great empire. A general and strategist who has not lost a single battle. Cruel and merciless, but during his reign, science and art flourished in Central Asia... What kind of person was Tamerlan, a complex and mysterious person whose name is forever on the pages of history? Scientist and journalist Justin Marozzi tried to answer this question." [§] Marozzi's book consists of twelve chapters, Acknowledgments, two appendices, illustrations and comments, totaling 323 pages. It is filled with the structure of states of Central Asia during the time of Amir Timur, maps dedicated to Sahibqiran's campaigns and victories, as well as miniatures related to Amir Timur and his time in the illustrations, the attitude towards him during the former Union of Soviets in the 20th century and the attitude of the present day, also photos taken from the ongoing activities. The Russian translation of the work was published in "Poligrafizdat" of Moscow^{**}.

It is known that Amir Temur was not the only person who aspired to rule in his time. It should not be forgotten that he, like all great historical figures, is a child of his time.

He was brought up by the social environment of his time, and his views, goals and aspirations were shaped by the ideology of his time. He laid the foundation stone of the current fate of Central Asia by claiming globalism according to historical necessity. He, like everyone else, behaved according to the style of the era, time and environment in which he lived. However, it is known from his subsequent activities that he was superior to others in terms of his ability and potential. Perhaps, this ability and potential ensured that this world warrior, who spent his whole life in battle, fought absolutely undefeated battles.

[†] Justin Marozzi Tamerlane: Sword of Islam, Conqueror of the World. Da Capo. February 2006, 449 pages

[‡] *Тамерлан. Завоеватель мира. Мароцци Джастин. Серия: Исторический роман. Издательство: АСТ, АСТ Москва (2009). ISBN: 978-5-17-058919-7, 978-5-403-01069-6. Объем: 464 стр.*

[§] Якубов М.К. Жастин Мароццининг "Темур: Ислом шамшири, дунё фотиhi" тарихий романи хақида мулоҳазалар. Мирзо Улугбек номидаги Ўзбекистон Миллий университети. «Замонавий ўзбек адабиётшунослигининг янгиланиш тамойиллари» мавзудаги Республика илмий-назарий анжумани материаллари. Тошкент, 2016. Б.52-54.

^{**} Мароцци Джастин. Тамерлан. Завоеватель мира. Полководец, у ног которого лежал весь мир... - М.: Астраль, 2005. (бундан кейинги мисоллар шу нашрдан олинди, саҳифаси қавс ичида келтирилади.).

Perhaps, not realizing that the creation of a centralized state was preferable to the feudal disunity of that time, he crushed those who rebelled against his order, and was a little more ruthless than other kings.

So, Amir Timur was brought up by his time, his time, the environment of the Middle Ages (XIV century) Movarounnahr and sent him to worldliness. Indeed, a writer who intends to write a work of art about Sahibqiran should never forget this. If this is the case, the interpretation of these historical factors in the novel of Justin Marozzi, excluding the requirements of history and social development, is not similar to the historical situation in the era of Sahibqiron.

In his work, Justin Marozzi has a sincere attitude towards the personality of Sahibqiran and our country, appreciates Timur's place in world history. However, at the same time, there are some opinions and analyzes in the work, in which the artistic textures of the author and other scholars he relied on do not correspond to historical reality. In our opinion, this work, recognized by Marozzi as a historical novel, does not meet the needs and wishes of the reader who seeks to learn about the life, victories and achievements of our great forefather, because the characteristics of the author Amir Timur, we mentioned above, that is, the formation of a person, how instead of talking about his victories and incredible achievements, he devotes almost half of his book to his travels around our country. No matter how rich and wonderful the images are, the author does not approach the image of Sahibkiran more clearly, he respectfully observes Amir Timur's achievements from afar, therefore, any author, biographer should approach the issue based on clear evidence and analysis in order to make a true assessment of his hero. We must not forget that one of the rules of writing a biography is to determine what kind of person the hero of the book was and evaluate his achievements. In this situation, the reader is not given any clear information about how Sahibqiran established a powerful kingdom and reached the level of its righteous owner.

But in the first chapter of the book, "The Road from the Steppe (1336-1370)", the author also quotes the following relevant opinion from the book "History of Persia" by the lieutenant colonel of the British army P. M. Sykes:

"The master Amir Timur was the greatest conqueror from Asia in history. The son of a small official was not only the bravest of all braves, but also an extremely impressive, noble, experienced and careful person. The combination of these qualities made him a powerful commander of his soldiers, and the gods of war themselves supported him." (5)

This chapter begins with the Battle of Ankara on July 28, 1402 by Movarounnahr's armies:

"On July 28, 1402, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, an old ruler was watching his army from one of the hills surrounding the valley. Most of the soldiers (Lashkars) were concentrated in Chebukabad Valley, northeast of Ankara. Each warrior shouts "Forward!" He was impatiently waiting for the decree. These were two hundred thousand enlisted soldiers gathered from all corners of his kingdom - from Armenia to Afghanistan, from Samarkand to Siberia. These self-confident, well-organized warriors had won many battles. They didn't know what defeat was... Their gaze was focused on the distant chariot that appeared under the sky. Sahibkiran (a title referring to the generosity of the planets to oneself at birth), Conqueror of the Universe, Emperor of the Age, Sultan of the Seven Climates. But only one name - Timur suited him best." (5-6)

It seems that here the author made a typical mistake by using Western European titles - king, emperor, prince, compared to the East. Moreover, he made another big mistake. Amir Timur was neither an

emperor, nor a sultan, nor a khan. He was only an amir - an army commander. In fact, the kingdom was officially ruled by Genghis Sultan Mahmud Khan. Although the author admits this in the later chapters of the work, he continues to call Amir Timur an emperor, although this is not true.

On page 26 of his work, Justin Marozzi, speaking about Kesh and Shahrisabz, the owner's homeland, writes:

- "Shahrisabz, Green City, was entering its golden age. 1379 Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi reports: "...the emperor, fascinated by the beauty of this city, the fresh air of the oases, the richness of its gardens and the sweetness of its fruits, built his summer residence there and declared the city the second capital of his empire."

Then we read:

- "Unlike other buildings built by Amir Timur, according to the Kufic inscription written on the eastern building of the White Palace, it was supposed to reflect the idea that "the sultan is the shadow of Allah on earth". According to the legend, Amir Timur, who was angry with the secret inscription written on the western minaret, "Sultan is a shadow", ordered to throw the master from the palace minaret to the ground.

In addition, the work contains the following positive comments about the White Palace:

- "In 1404, Oksaroy Shahrisabz, whose power and elegance Klaviho enjoyed, became a jewel. As Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi wrote, "it was built with such beauty and elegance that no other building can compare with it." Amir Timur himself said something like this:

"Let those who do not believe in our power see the buildings we have built." Those were true words indeed."

We are happy about Justin Marozzi's attention to our great ancestor Amir Timur. But the conclusion is that any writer who writes about historical figures, scholars, generals and great statesmen should draw conclusions based on the historical truth and modern requirements for it.

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